



MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

ABN: 41003 864 891

KNOWLEDGE IS LIGHT & WORK IS WORSHIP

www.mfis.nsw.edu.au

INFORMATION UPDATE

FROM THE BOARD OF MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

Friday, 18 October 2019

Assalamualaikum

Welcome back for Term 4

On behalf of the Board I welcome all staff and students back to School for Term 4.

This is an important term for all Years. It is an opportunity for all students to build on the things they have learnt throughout the year and perform well in their final assessment tasks. For our 2019 Year 12 students, it is the time of the HSC examinations and we wish every one of them the very best for the examinations and the future.

Whole School Assembly on 24 September

On Tuesday, 24 September, the whole School came together at Homebush to honour our Year 12s and wish them well. This whole-school assembly, which was first held last year, is truly a great occasion. Being a part of such wonderful events will remain forever in the minds of the students. I spoke to students about how important it is that they see themselves as a part of the school and enjoys their time at the School and beyond.

The only disappointing aspect was that it seems some students decided not to attend. Some absences may of course have been due to illnesses or other legitimate causes. Mr Rixon and the staff are following this up.

Appeal against the NCAT decision

In the last Board Update (9 September), I informed you that the Board was surprised and disappointed with the decision on our appeal to the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT).

While the Tribunal did find some things in favour of the School, we do not believe the decision went far enough and that it contained a number of errors. As a result and after receiving advice from our legal representatives, on 4 October we submitted an application to appeal the decision. In the first instance a panel from the NCAT will hear our appeal.

While this will be happening in the background, things will proceed as normal at the school. We will advise you of developments.

Change to the Constitution

The Board recently voted to make a change to its Constitution.

While Malek Fahd Islamic School accepts students and staff from a wide variety of backgrounds, the Board thought that it was important to clearly state that the School is an Islamic school based on the Sunni Muslim tradition and operates accordingly and teaches Sunni Muslim beliefs and values.

This clarification has been added in a couple of places in the 'Objects of the Constitution'. It will be further stated in places such as the website in much the same way as many other faith-based Independent schools.

New Board member

I am delighted to inform you of the appointment of a new Board member. Miriam Makki, a senior lawyer with Clayton Utz, has agreed to join us as we move forward. Miriam was admitted to the Supreme Court of NSW in 2015 and has been involved in some major cases. She is Chairwoman of the Executive Board of the NSW Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network and serves on the Executive Committee of the NSW Muslim Legal Network, in which capacity she also mentors law students.

Yes, we now have two 'Miriams' and two 'Johns' on the Board!

Two very exciting events are happening this term

One of the key actions in our Strategic Plan is to develop a better understanding of 'Islamic Pedagogy' and incorporate it into our teaching and learning programs at MFIS.

So, on Friday 25 and Saturday 26 October a team from the Centre for Islamic Studies at the University of South Australia will be at the School. On the Friday, they will visit each of the campuses to gain a better understanding of our School. On the Saturday, they will meet the Board, some staff members, parent representatives and alumni to discuss and clarify Islamic Pedagogy as it can be applied at MFIS.

The second major activity is to start to develop the '2020 – 2040 Master Plan' for the School. While we have a Strategic Plan that covers the period July 2018 to June 2021, it is time to develop a Master Plan to state what the School will be by 2040 and identify those things that need to be done.

To start this process, a seminar will be held at the Greenacre campus on Monday 4 November. Once again, this session will involve the Board, key staff members, parent representatives and alumni. It will identify those matters that will be the subject of further investigation and discussion.

Jazakallah Khairan for your ongoing support.

Wassalam

DR JOHN BENNETT

Chair